

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8271

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 339

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN/EC AGREEMENT

1. ON FEBRUARY 12 CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EC, LANGLEY, EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THE CURRENT STATUS OF CANADIAN EFFORTS TO SIGN AN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY.

2. THE POLITICAL PRESSURE IN CANADA FOR SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT IS STILL QUITE STRONG. CANADA HAS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH ALMOST ALL ITS IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PARTNERS EXCEPT THE COMMUNITY. THIS GAP IS CONSIDERED A GREAT LACK. LANGLEY SAYS THAT FIELDING, COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS WITH NORTH AMERICA, AND LOERKE, US-CANADA DESK OFFICER, HAVE JUST BEEN IN OTTAWA FOR AN EXPLORATORY TALK ON THE FORM THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT TAKE. THERE WILL BE FURTHER "CONCEPTUAL INTERCHANGES." LANGLEY HOPES THAT BY FALL THE COMMUNITY CAN AGREE ON A MANDATE WHICH WILL ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE OLD CONCEPT OF A TRADE AGREEMENT DUPLICATING THE GATT SEEMS TO BE FADING AS A POSSIBILITY. THE CANADIAN MISSION HERE HAS BEEN PUSHING ROA "FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT" WHICH WOULD CONSIST PRIMARILY OF TWO FEATURES: (A) A LIST OF SUBJECTS ON WHICH

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COOPERATION WOULD TAKE PLACE (E.G. ENVIRONMENT) AND

(B) A PROVISION FOR CONSULTATION. ADDITIONALLY SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT INCLUDE ONE OR TWO ARTICLES PAYING HOMAGE TO THE GATT. THE PRINCIPAL UNANSWERED QUESTION ABOUT SUCH A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WOULD BE WHETHER IT SHOULD STAND ALONE AS A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK OR WHETHER IT SHOULD BE FILLED OUT WITH SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS IN PARTICULAR FIELDS.GREENWALD

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